



Sunday 10:00 AM • April 30, 2023
citychurchavl.org

CITY CHURCH



ASHEVILLE



FOR REFLECTION

“his lips drink water
but his heart drinks wine”

– *E.E. Cummings*

“Why would Jesus, to convey what he had come to do, choose to turn 150 gallons of water into superb wine in order to keep a party going? The answer is that Jesus came to bring festival joy. He is the real, the true ‘master of the banquet.’ Jesus’ first miracle of water to wine invites us to join His feast.”

– *Tim Keller*

“This miracle proclaims that the God of all wine is present. The vine is one of the blessings sent by God. Every year, as part of the natural order, God makes wine. He creates the vine and teaches it to draw up water by its roots and, with the aid of the sun, to turn that water into a juice which will ferment and take on certain qualities. Thus every year, from Noah’s time till ours, God turns water into wine. In a certain sense, He constantly turns water into wine, for wine, like all drinks, is but water modified. Once, and in one year only, God, now incarnate, short-circuits

the process: makes wine in a moment and uses earthenware jars instead of vegetable fibers to hold the water. But He uses them to do what He is always doing. The miracle consists in the shortcut, but the event to which it leads is the unusual one ... when Christ at Cana makes water into wine, the mask is off. The miracle has only half its effect if it only convinces us that Christ is God: it will have its full effect if whenever we see a vineyard or drink a glass of wine we remember that here works He who sat at the wedding party in Cana.”

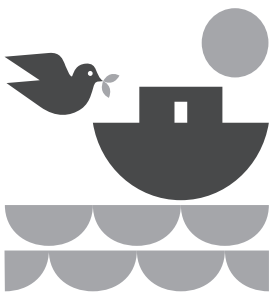
– *C.S Lewis*

NOTE TO PARENTS:

We value the participation of children in worship and invite them to remain with us during the entire service. However, if you’d like to take your children to childcare, we offer several options:

- Nursery - 6 months to 18 months old
- City Minis - 18 months through 2 yrs old
- City Kids Jr. - 3 - 4 yrs old
- City Kids - Kindergarten - 2nd grade (5 - 8 yrs old)

During the hymn before the sermon, please walk your child to their classroom downstairs. You’ll need to pick up your child from the nursery and City Minis immediately after the service, but the City Kids Jr. and City Kids classes will be brought back into worship during the final hymn.



PREPARATION

Personal prayer of preparation: Father in heaven, deliver me from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind when drawn near to you in these moments. Grant that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections I may worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

WELCOMING HYMN: Praise My Soul the King of Heaven*

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
To his feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who, like me, his praise should sing?
Come and worship, come and worship,
Praise the everlasting King.
2. Praise him for his grace and favor,
To our fathers in distress;
Praise him, still the same forever,
Slow to chide and swift to bless.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Glorious in his faithfulness.
3. God our Father tends and spares us,
Well our feeble frame he knows;
In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Widely as his mercy goes.
4. Angels, help us to adore him,
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
Dwellers all in time and space.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Praise with us the God of grace!

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 67:1-2

Minister: May God be gracious to us and bless us;
may he make his face shine upon us
so that our way may be known on earth,
our salvation among all nations.

All: **Let the peoples praise you, God;
let all the peoples praise you, God.**

HYMN OF ADORATION: The Lord Our God Is Good**

**The Lord our God is good.
The Lord our God is good.
Full of kindness and compassion, merciful and just.
The Lord our God is good.**

1. Who else knows our deepest pain,
wears it as his own?
Finds us in our naked shame,
clothes and brings us home.
2. Who takes his inheritance,
gives it all away?
Welcomes guests to feast with him,
never can repay.

Preparation: We focus our hearts and minds in preparation to enter into the life-giving presence of God.

*** Words:** Henry F. Lyte, 1834 | **Music:** Nathan Partain, 2000

Worship through singing: God's people sing not only as an expression of our love for God but also to remind ourselves of our place in God's redemptive story. The church is marked by its singing, from Israel's deliverance through the Psalms to our worship today.

Call to Worship: We need to be called to come and worship God because we default to thinking the world revolves around our needs and agendas, and also because we struggle to believe that God truly wants us to draw near to him. The call to worship focuses our attention on God and prepares us to meet with him.

****Words & Music:** Paul Zauch



Prayer of adoration:

We ask God to meet us in our worship as he's promised to do through his Word, sacraments, and prayer.

Affirmation of faith:

Creeds, confessions, and catechisms are voices from the church's past. They are the distillation of the church's discoveries of the meaning and the implications of the truth as God has revealed it in the Scriptures and confirmed it in the experience and the conscience of his people. It's in this sense that creeds, confessions, and catechisms are, in their most compressed and authoritative form, the church's "tradition," what is "handed down" from one generation to the next.

***Words & Music:**

Wendell Kimbrough

PRAYER FOR GOD'S PRESENCE AND POWER

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Philippians 2:5-11

Leader: Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

All: **And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

Leader: Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus

All: **Every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

HYMN OF RESPONSE: I'll Not Be Shaken (Psalm 62)*

For God alone, I wait in silence;
My soul is still before the Lord.
He is my rock and my salvation,
My fortress strong; I trust in Him.

**I'll not be shaken! I'll not be shaken,
For all my hope is in His love.
From God alone comes my salvation;
I wait and trust His steadfast love!**

Put not your hope in gain of riches;
Seek not your rest in empty wealth.
The rich are weak; the poor are mighty,
Who turn to God alone for help.

Pour out your heart to God our refuge
And trust in Him to hear you cry.
No other hope will never fail you;
No other love will not run dry.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE



CALL TO CONFESSION: Psalm 130:1-2

“Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! O LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!”

CONFESSION OF SIN

Minister: Father in heaven, we are all poor as well as guilty, having nothing of our own with which to repay you, but we bring Jesus to you in the arms of faith, pleading his righteousness to offset our iniquities, rejoicing that he will weigh down the scales for us, and satisfy your justice. We praise you that great sin draws out greater grace, that, although the least sin deserves infinite punishment because it's done against an infinite God, yet there is mercy for us, for where guilt is most terrible, there your mercy in Christ is most free and deep.

All: **Bless us by revealing to us more of our sin and more of Jesus saving merits, by causing your goodness to pass before us, by speaking peace to our contrite hearts; strengthen us to give us no rest until Christ reigns supreme within us in every thought, word, and deed, in a faith that purifies the heart, overcomes the world, works by love, fastens us to you, and ever clings to the cross.**

(We invite you to personalize your confession as you pray silently.)

Minister: Gracious God, in Jesus Christ you have opened a new and living way by which fallen creatures can approach you with acceptance.

All: **Help us to contemplate the beauty of Jesus, the perfectness of his sacrifice, and the effectiveness of his intercession. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S PARDONING GRACE: Psalm 130:3-4

“If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be worshipped.”

Minister: In Christ, God answers us and sets us free!

All: **In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.**

Confession of sin:

It happens within the context of relationship, both with God and each other.

We confess together, in community, before a gracious God who has given us himself. Confession both acknowledges our need for mercy and celebrates its abundance in Christ.

Assurance of pardon:

God declares through his Church that everyone who repents and believes in Jesus Christ is completely forgiven from all their sins and their guilty consciences cleansed.



HYMN OF PARDONING GRACE: Yet Not I, but through Christ in Me*

Parents: If you'd like your children to take part in our children's programming, please walk them to their classroom downstairs during the song.

Please make nursery and City Minis pickups immediately following the service. City Kids Jr. and City Kids will be brought back into the service during the final hymn.

1. What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
2. The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Saviour He will stay
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley He will lead
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!
3. No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future sure, the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And He was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.
4. With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

*Words & Music: City
Alight



John 2:1-11

1 On the third day a wedding took place in Cana of Galilee. Jesus's mother was there, **2** and Jesus and his disciples were invited to the wedding as well. **3** When the wine ran out, Jesus's mother told him, "They don't have any wine."

4 "What has this concern of yours to do with me, woman?" Jesus asked. "My hour has not yet come."

5 "Do whatever he tells you," his mother told the servants.

6 Now six stone water jars had been set there for Jewish purification. Each contained twenty or thirty gallons.

7 "Fill the jars with water," Jesus told them. So they filled them to the brim. **8** Then he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the headwaiter." And they did.

9 When the headwaiter tasted the water (after it had become wine), he did not know where it came from—though the servants who had drawn the water knew. He called the groom **10** and told him, "Everyone sets out the fine wine first, then, after people are drunk, the inferior. But you have kept the fine wine until now."

11 Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee. He revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

Reader: This is the word of the LORD.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

The sermon: Some view the sermon as a way to get principles for 'right' living.

Others see it as an interesting piece of intellectual challenge or an opportunity to gain inspiration for our lives.

In reality, as we open the Scriptures we encounter Jesus Christ. Therefore, as you listen, pray to be open to his leading, exhortation, encouragement, and healing.



Guidelines for the reception of communion:

The Lord's Supper, also called Communion, is the family meal for Christians. City Church welcomes and invites all Christians who are willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are at peace with God and with their neighbor, who are members of a congregation that proclaims the gospel, and who seek strength to live more faithfully for Christ to join us in this sacrament.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 "For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

Distribution of the Elements

Prayers of Reflection for Those Not Partaking in Communion

If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer. We hope that this is helpful to you as you consider your relationship with Jesus Christ and his people, the church. Please join us in the circle during communion and for our final hymn.

If you are not able to partake in the Lord's Supper today, please use this time to meditate on one of the following prayers:

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth: Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Awakening: Lord Jesus, I've heard teaching from the Bible for years and have been in church for years, but very little of this even seems real to me. Please show me the reality of what you are saying. Unnerve me with the depth of my sinfulness, yet enthrall me with the goodness of the good news. Make what is familiar seem new. Amen.

Prayer of Belief: Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever imagined, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to dream. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Commitment: Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship through membership in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.



HYMN OF CELEBRATION: Come Ye Souls by Sin Afflicted*

1. Come ye souls by, sin afflicted,
Bowed with fruitless sorrow down;
By the broken law convicted,
Through the cross, behold the crown;
Look to Jesus; look to Jesus; look to Jesus;
Mercy flows through Him alone.
2. Take His easy yoke and wear it;
Love will make your obedience sweet;
Christ will give you strength to bear it,
While His grace shall guide your feet
Safe to glory, safe to glory, safe to glory,
Where His ransomed captives meet.
3. Blessed are the eyes that see Him,
Blest the ears that hear His voice;
Blessed are the souls that trust Him,
And in Him, alone rejoice;
His commandments, His commandments, His commandments
Then become their happy choice.
4. Sweet as home to pilgrims weary,
Light to newly opened eyes,
Like full springs in deserts dreary,
Is the rest, the cross supplies;
All who taste it, all who taste it, all who taste it
Shall to rest immortal rise.

***Words:** Joseph Swain (alt. Kevin Twit)
| **Music:** Kevin Twit



HYMN OF RESPONSE: We Will Feast*

**We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more**

We will not be burned by the fire
He is the LORD our God
We are not consumed, by the flood
Upheld, protected, gathered up
In the dark of night, before the dawn
My soul, be not afraid
For the promised morning, oh how long?
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength
Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the Faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together, bring shalom.

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL & SENDING

Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!

**Please take time after the service to meet
someone you've never met.**

***Words & Music:**
Sandra McCracken
& Josh Moore | ©
2015 Drink Your Tea
/Joshmooreownsthis
Music (ASCAP)

The Benediction:
God always gets the last word in our encounter of worship. For Christians, it is always a word of blessing and sending to live our lives in the light of the reality of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is not a prayer. It is God's word of blessing on your life.



CONTACT INFORMATION CARD

If you'd like to know more about upcoming events in the life of the church, please give us your contact information so we can keep you informed. Please tear off this card and place it in the offering box.

You may also visit our website and follow the menu option "Connect/Contact Us." We'll receive your basic contact information and keep you in the loop!

NEED PRAYER?

Please email your prayer requests to the elders at session@citychurchavl.org. Unless otherwise specified by you, prayer requests will only be made known to the Session and staff of City Church.

MARCH 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT:

Giving:	\$40,253	YTD Giving:	\$99,200
Expenses:	\$77,218	Reserves:	\$360,000
Net Income:	(\$36,965)	Annual Budget:	\$411,649

WANT TO SUPPORT CITY CHURCH FINANCIALLY?

We have several ways that you can give to God's work through your gifts. There's a box on the table in the back where you can place your gifts, tithes, and offerings. You may give online by going to citychurchavl.org/give. You may mail a check to the church: City Church, PO Box 1378, Asheville, NC 28802. You may also use our Text to Give feature, which is a quick and secure way to worship God with our gifts, tithes, and offerings. It's as simple as texting a dollar amount to this number: **84321**.



Session

David Fleming :: Elder
John Hopple :: Elder, Clerk
León Olguín :: Elder
Rev. Duff James (duff@citychurchavl.org) :: Pastor, Moderator
To email the Session: session@citychurchavl.org

Diaconate

Tommy Rockhold :: Deacon
Mary Dorris :: Deacon
Eric Quiram :: Deacon, Chairman
Duncan Dorris :: Deacon, Secretary
To email the Diaconate: deacons@citychurchavl.org

Staff

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Kristi James (kristi@citychurchavl.org) :: Women's Discipleship
Will Long (will@citychurchavl.org) :: Music Arts Director
Miller Voigt (miller@citychurchavl.org) :: Children's Discipleship
Jenn Odom (admin@citychurchavl.org) :: Church Administrator

Volunteers

Nate O'Steen (treasurer@citychurchavl.org) :: Treasurer

Musicians

Will Long (will@citychurchavl.org) :: Guitar/Vocals/Director
Scott Schindler :: Vocals/Percussion
Sarah Troutman :: Vocals/Piano
Liz Duncan :: Vocals
Dean Peteet :: Bass
Amanda Johnson :: Fiddle/Vocals
Sheryl Olguín :: Guitar/Vocals
León Olguín :: Piano/Vocals
Ben Walters :: Mandolin/Keyboards
Huw Rees-Jones :: Percussion
Brandon Smith, Mark Iverson, Will Troutman, & Steve Sandman :: Sound Technicians

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or use the QR code below:***

